

## How to Identify Your Stream

### Directions

1. Using Google Maps, locate your school. Streams are indicated by blue lines. Look for the closest blue line stream and find its name.
2. If your school is not right next to the blue line stream on the map, you will have to determine how the water gets from your school to that stream.
3. Use the Terrain feature on Google Maps. Sometimes more streams will appear but not always.
4. Now use the Earth view to see if there are any ditches or small streams you can see in the satellite photographs.
5. Finally, you may have to use a topographic map.
  - Go to [store.usgs.gov](http://store.usgs.gov).
  - Go to Map locator and Downloader.
  - Follow directions to download topo map/aerials.
  - Put name of your school in the search box, include town and state.
  - An orange bubble should appear on the map over your school.
  - You will be able to see a topographic map on the screen.
  - Click on the orange bubble to see what maps are available.
  - Download the newest files, which will contain both aerials and a topographic map of what the area looks like now.
  - To see regular topographic maps, download one dated in the 1980s or 1990s.
  - Choose the download options and save to your computer.
  - Open topographic map and zoom into your school.
  - Go to Edit, take a snapshot and select the area of the map that contains the land area of your school.
  - Paste the snapshot into a word document.
6. Find out the name of this stream. If it doesn't have a name because it is too small, determine the name of the stream that it flows into. Your stream will then be called the "Unnamed Tributary to (named) stream."